

BLUE RIDGE PAPER PRODUCTS, INC.  
CANTON, NORTH CAROLINA

**Blue Ridge Paper Products, Inc., Canton, North Carolina facility**, acquired in 1999, produces printing and writing paper as well as specialty uncoated and extrusion coated paper. The Canton pulp and paper mill's water quality ranks high among that of mills throughout the world. The facility's kraft pulp mill is elemental chlorine free (ECF). The facility uses bleach filtrate recycle (BFR) technology to recycle chemicals and water used in the bleaching process, thereby reducing water usage, bleach plant effluent, and effluent color.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

**AT A GLANCE**

Industry Sector:	Forest and Paper Products
Business:	Manufactures uncoated paper & paperboard
Facility Employees:	More than 1,000
Accomplishments:	Reduced water use Reduced COD discharges to water
2003 Commitments:	Reduce hazardous material use Reduce material use Reduce solid waste
Address:	175 Main Street, Box 4000 Canton, NC 28716

*Past Accomplishments*

The Blue Ridge Paper Products Canton facility has demonstrated its commitment to environmental performance in the areas of water use and chemical discharges to surface waters. Since 1997, the facility has:

- **Reduced chemical oxygen demand discharges to water** by 37% through installing BFR, a proprietary technology that allows bleach filtrates to be recycled in the mill's softwood fiber line.
- **Reduced water use** by an average of two million gallons each day through various measures, such as process improvement and implementing water conservation techniques throughout the mill.

*Future Commitments*

The Canton facility also committed to continued environmental improvement through reducing hazardous material use, improving recycling efforts, and reducing the expected lifetime waste associated with its products. By 2003, the facility will:

- **Reduce lime use** by 15 tons per day through process improvement and equipment upgrades.
- **Reduce influent fiber losses** by increasing usage of fiber manufactured on-site by 8 tons per day. The facility plans to accomplish this goal by improving employee operating practices.
- **Reduce coated paperboard waste** by 750 tons per month through increased recycling efforts.
- **Reduce end-of-life product waste** by reducing the fiber content of its paperboard packaging product line by an average of 5%.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Blue Ridge Paper Products Canton facility participates in a Community Advisory Committee, designed to allow local residents to voice their concerns about the facility and learn about its operations.

Canton Mill management also meets periodically with an alliance of local nonprofit organizations to discuss environmental performance and initiatives. Additionally, the facility offers a regular open house program and mill tours.